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TARZAN, Book #2

Book #2 of 4, Art by BURNE HOGARTH

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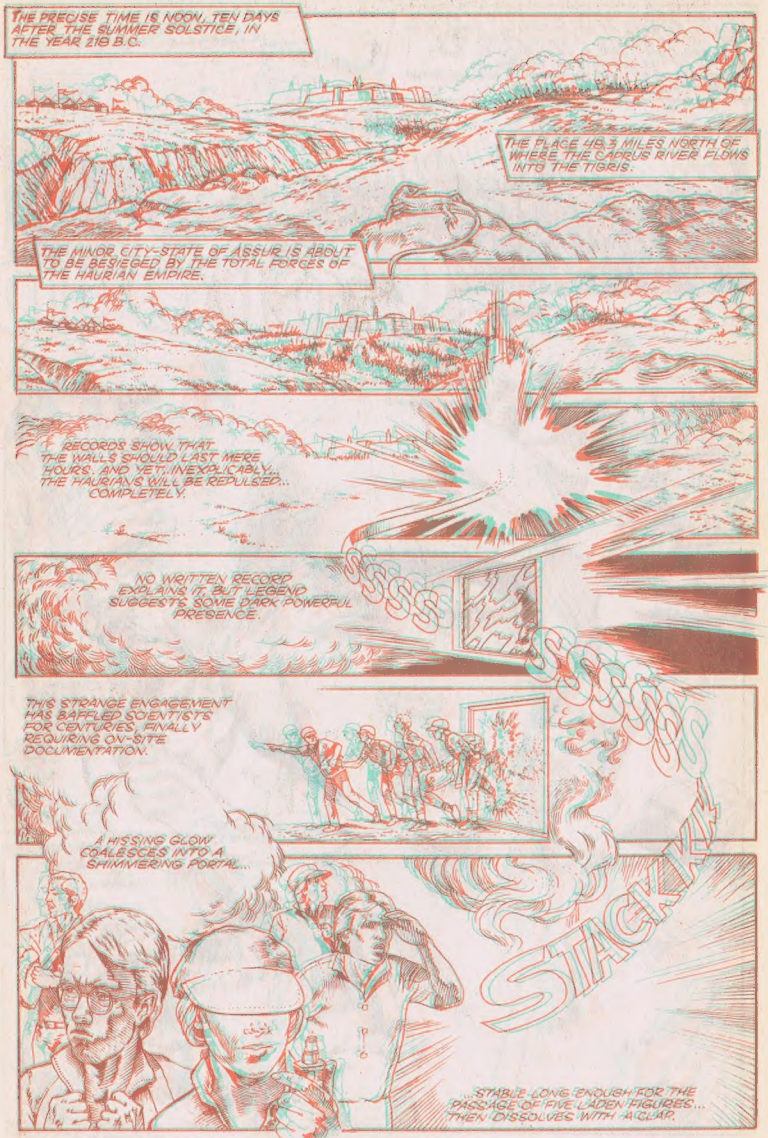
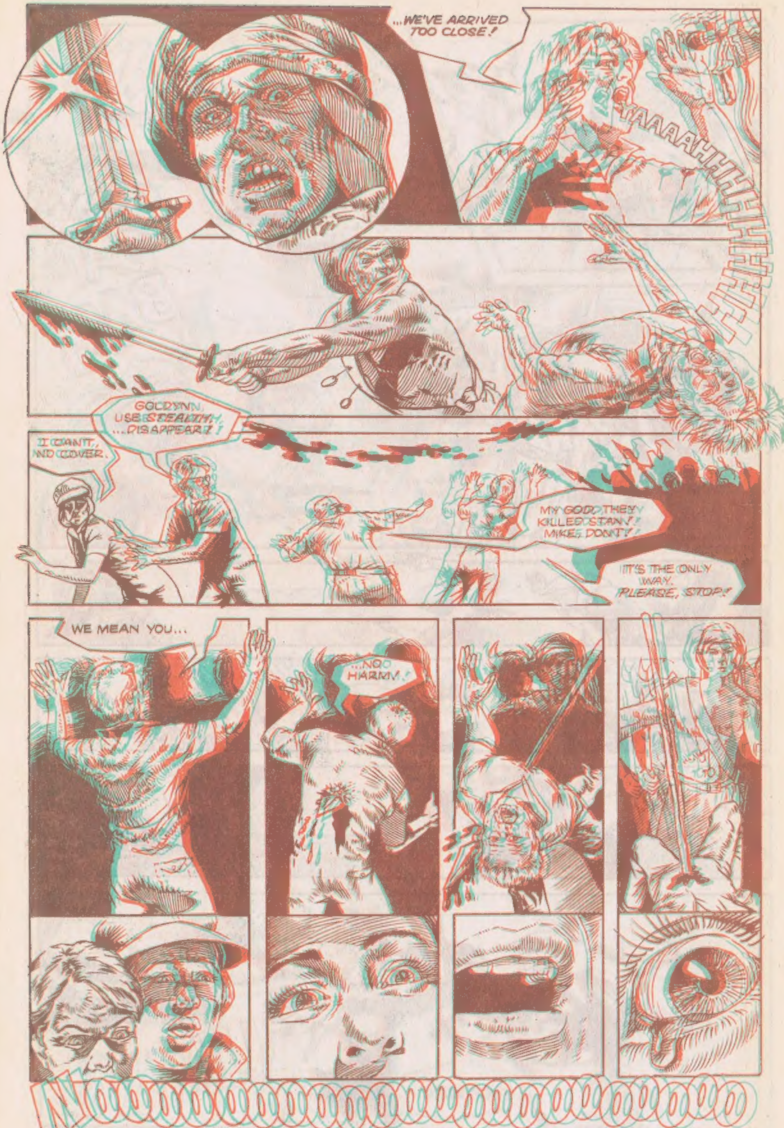
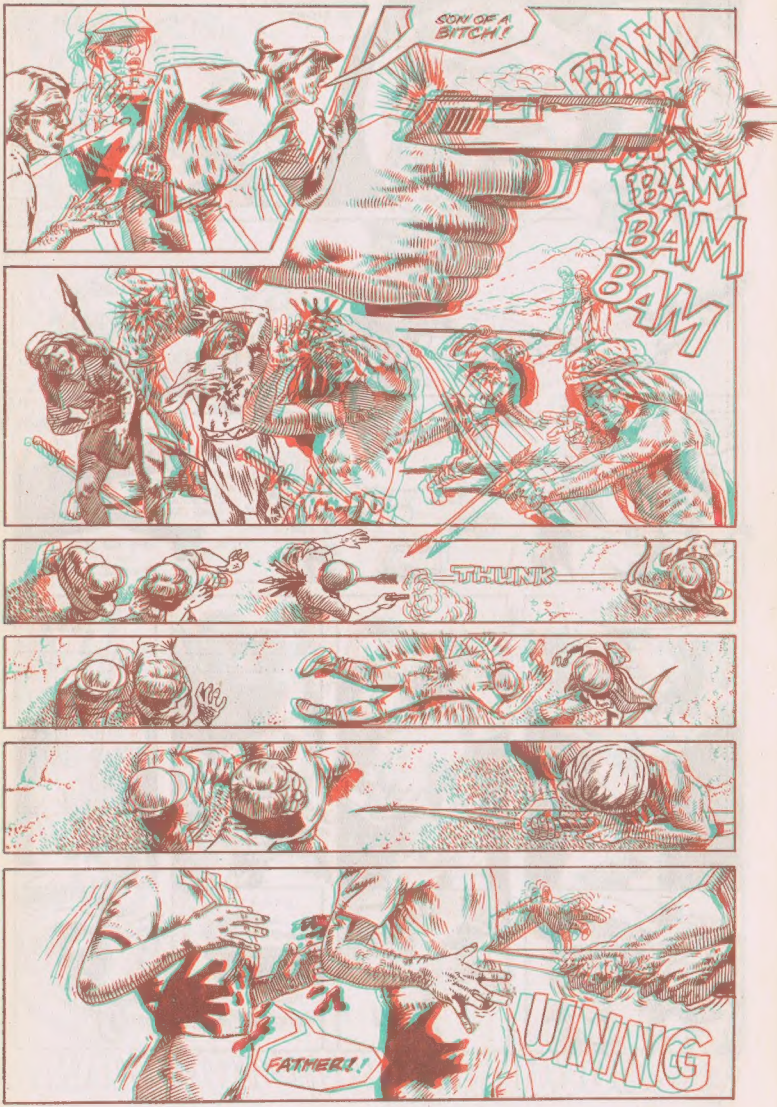

THE PRECISE TIME IS NOON...TEN DAYS AFTER THE SUMMER SOLSTICE, IN THE YEAR 218 B.C.
THE PLACE 46.3 MILES NORTH OF WHERE THE CADRUS RIVER FLOWS INTO THE TIGRIS.
THE MINOR CITY-STATE OF ASSUR IS ABOUT TO BE BESIEGED BY THE TOTAL FORCES OF THE HAURIAN EMPIRE.
RECORDS SHOW THAT THE WALLS SHOULD LAST MERE HOURS. AND YET...INEXPLICABLY... THE HAURIANS WILL BE REPULSED... COMPLETELY.
NO WRITTEN RECORD EXPLAINS IT, BUT LEGEND SUGGESTS SOME DARK POWERFUL PRESENCE.
SSSS
SSSS
THIS STRANGE ENGAGEMENT HAS BAFFLED SCIENTISTS FOR CENTURIES, FINALLY REQUIRING ON-SITE DOCUMENTATION.
A HISSING GLOW COALESCES INTO A SHIMMERING PORTAL...
STACK!!
...STABLE LONG ENOUGH FOR THE PASSAGE OF FIVE LADEN FIGURES... THEN DISSOLVES WITH A CLAP.

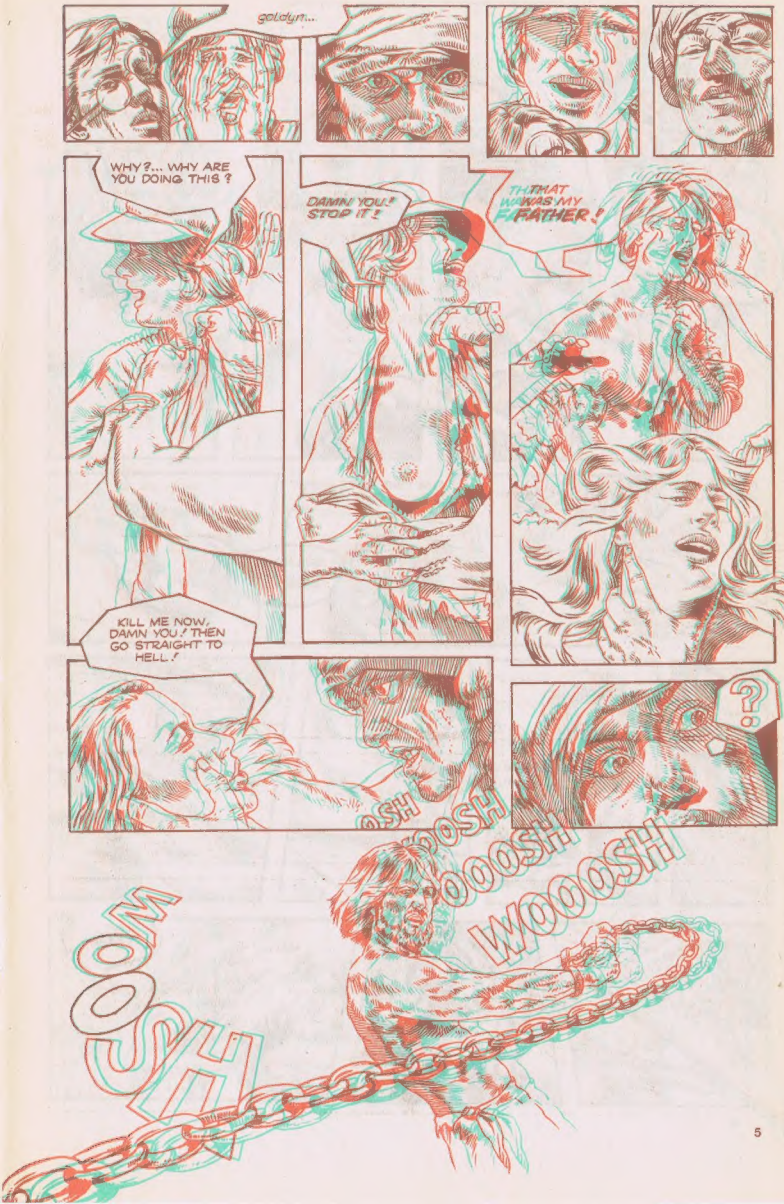
THEY ARE CHRONOLOGISTS; SCIENTISTS OF VARYING ORDERS, EXPERTS AT RECORDING ALL ASPECTS OF PAST HUMAN EVENTS. A SOCIOLOGIST, AN ARCHAEOLOGIST, AND A PSYCHOLOGIST. THE LEADER OF THE GROUP IS DR. TYTHORN, AN ANTHROPOLOGIST. THE YOUNGEST IS HIS DAUGHTER, A LINGUISTICS MAJOR. HER NAME IS.....
GOLDYN
WHO SET THESE CO-ORDINATES?
DDR. TYTHORN...

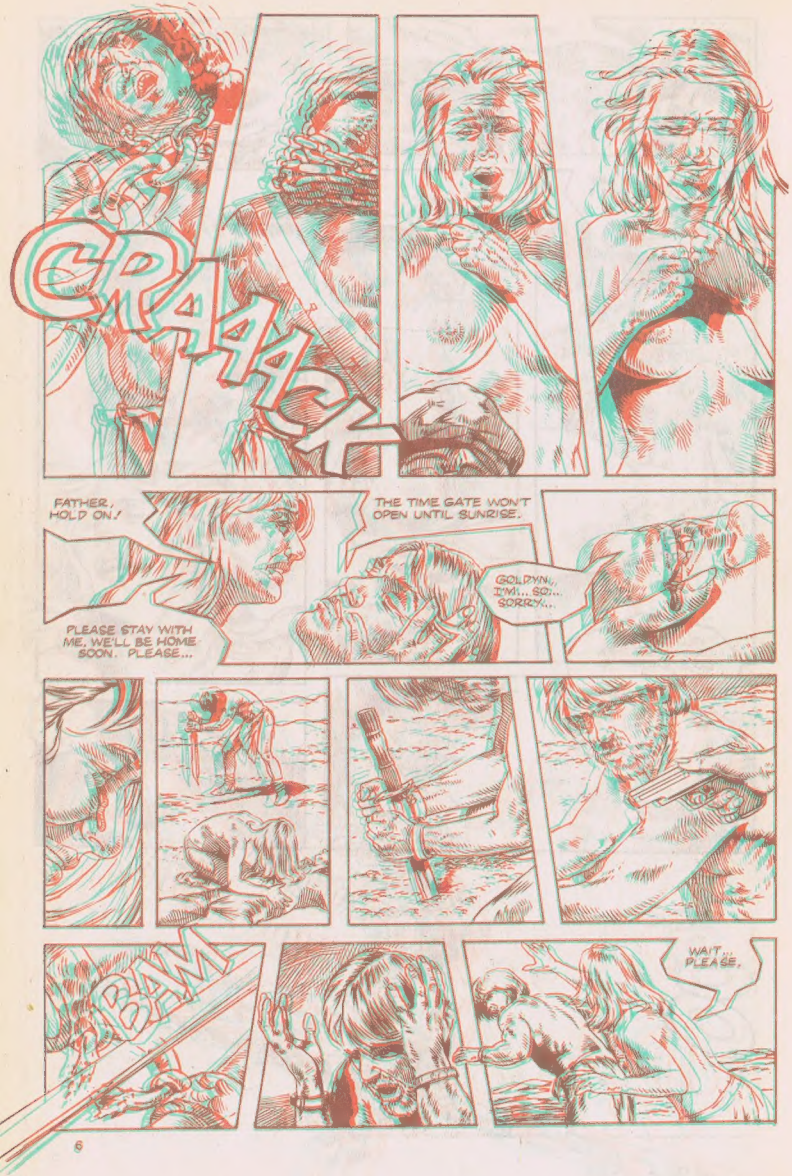
Written by Walter Stuart and Pam Stuart
Inked by Walter Stuart and Hank Mayo

3-D Process by RAY ZONE!
Edited by Steve Schaefer

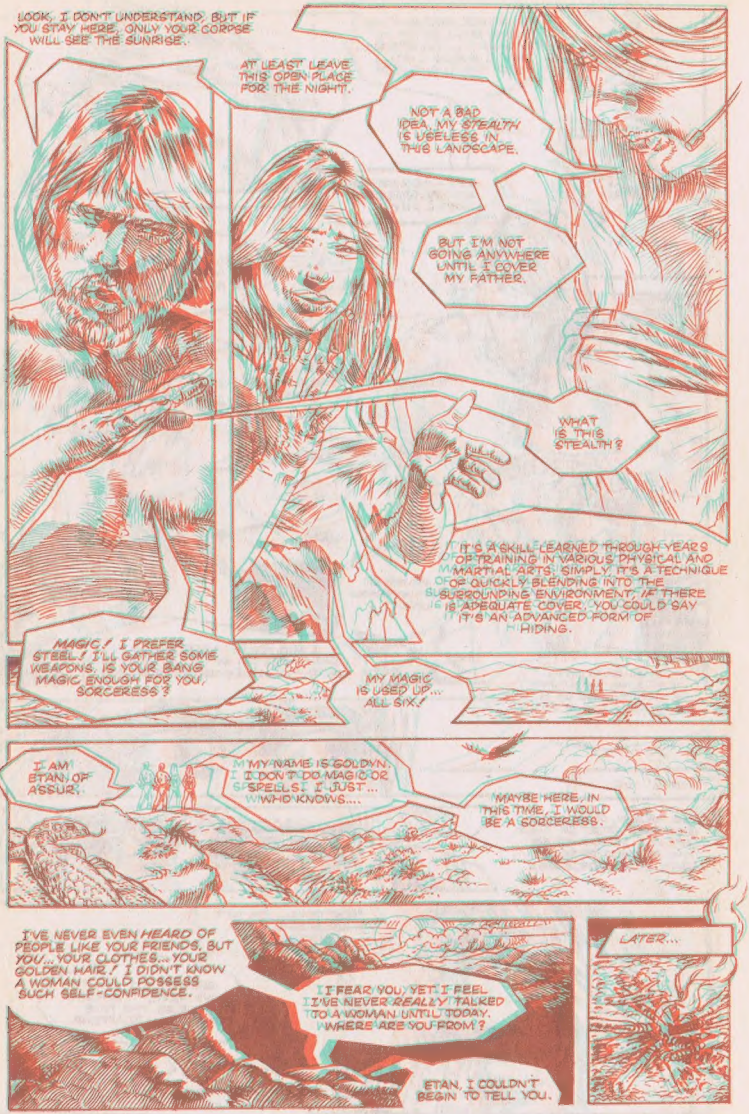

...WE'VE ARRIVED TOO CLOSE!
GOLDYNN, USE STEALTH, ...DISAPPEAR!
I CAN'T, NO COVER.
MY GOD, THEY KILLED STAN! MIKE, DON'T!
IT'S THE ONLY WAY. PLEASE, STOP!
WE MEAN YOU...
...NO HARM!


SON OF A BITCH!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
THUNK
FATHER!!
UNNG


goldyn...
WHY?... WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
DAMN YOU! STOP IT!
THAT WAS MY FATHER!
KILL ME NOW, DAMN YOU! THEN GO STRAIGHT TO HELL!
WOOSH
WOOOSH
WOOOSH
WOOSH
?


CRAACK
FATHER, HOLD ON!
PLEASE STAY WITH ME. WE'LL BE HOME SOON. PLEASE...
THE TIME GATE WON'T OPEN UNTIL SUNRISE.
GOLDYN, IVI... SO... SORRY...
BAM
WAIT... PLEASE.

MY FATHER BROUGHT ME ALONG BECAUSE OF MY TRAINING IN LINGUISTICS... BUT I GUESS I STILL NEED THE TRANSLATOR.
SHE FUMBLES HER BACK AND RETRIEVES A SMALL DEVICE.
YOU CAN UNDERSTAND ME NOW. DON'T BE AFRAID, I WANT TO THANK YOU.
ONLY A FOOL DOESN'T FEAR BLACK MAGIC!?
THERE'S NO MAGIC.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
I SEE YOU'RE A SORCERESS OF GREAT POWER. SPIRIT US AWAY FROM HERE. THE HAURIANS ARE EVERYWHERE.
YOUR BANG MAGIC IS STRONG, BUT IT DIDN'T SAVE THE LIVES OF YOUR FRIENDS. WE MUST LEAVE
*PISTOL. --ES:
THE HAURIAN DOGS MAKE GRUESOME SPORT OF THEIR CAPTIVES. I'D RATHER DIE THAN BE THEIR PRISONER AGAIN. COME, SORCERESS...
FIRST OF ALL, I'M NOT A SORCERESS. I'M A SCIENTIST.
SECONDLY, I CAN'T LEAVE HERE. TOMORROW AT SUNRISE, THE TIME PORTAL WILL REAPPEAR.
I MUST BE HERE TO RETURN HOME.

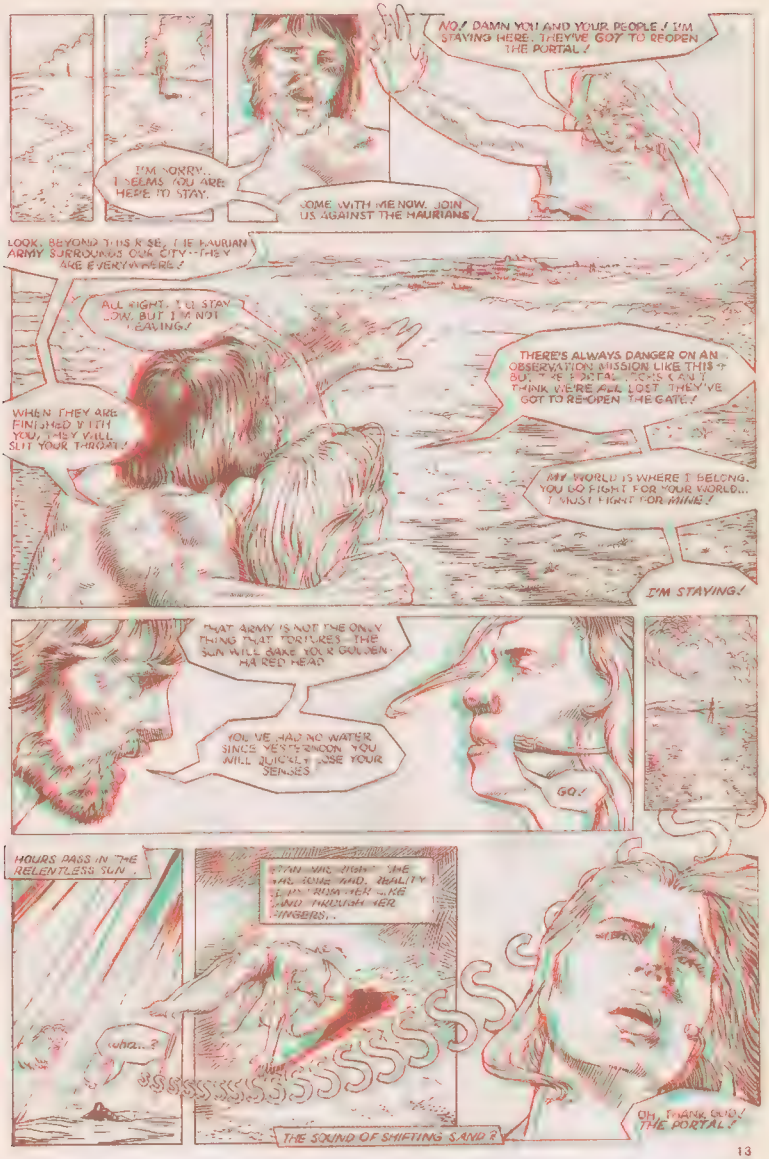

LOOK, I DON'T UNDERSTAND, BUT IF YOU STAY HERE, ONLY YOUR CORPSE WILL SEE THE SUNRISE.
AT LEAST LEAVE THIS OPEN PLACE FOR THE NIGHT.
NOT A BAD IDEA. MY STEALTH IS USELESS IN THIS LANDSCAPE.
BUT I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL I COVER MY FATHER.
WHAT IS THIS STEALTH?
IT'S A SKILL LEARNED THROUGH YEARS OF TRAINING IN VARIOUS PHYSICAL AND MARTIAL ARTS. SIMPLY, IT'S A TECHNIQUE OF QUICKLY BLENDING INTO THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT. IF THERE IS ADEQUATE COVER, YOU COULD SAY IT'S AN ADVANCED FORM OF HIDING.
MAGIC! I PREFER STEEL! I'LL GATHER SOME WEAPONS. IS YOUR BANG MAGIC ENOUGH FOR YOU, SORCERESS?
MY MAGIC IS USED UP... ALL SIX!
I AM ETAN, OF ASSUR.
MY NAME IS GOLDYN. I DON'T DO MAGIC OR SPELLS. I JUST... WHO KNOWS....
MAYBE HERE, IN THIS TIME, I WOULD BE A SORCERESS.
I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF PEOPLE LIKE YOUR FRIENDS. BUT YOU... YOUR CLOTHES... YOUR GOLDEN HAIR! I DIDN'T KNOW A WOMAN COULD POSSESS SUCH SELF-CONFIDENCE.
I FEAR YOU, YET I FEEL I'VE NEVER REALLY TALKED TO A WOMAN UNTIL TODAY. WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
ETAN, I COULDN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU.
LATER...

UP!
WHAT..?
TO TIME
FIGHT...
AND
DIE!
I MUST GO!
I MUST RETURN
TO THE GATE!
THERE IS NOWHERE TO GO.
WE ARE SURROUNDED. TAKE
A SWORD AND FIGHT.
I'M
SORRY..

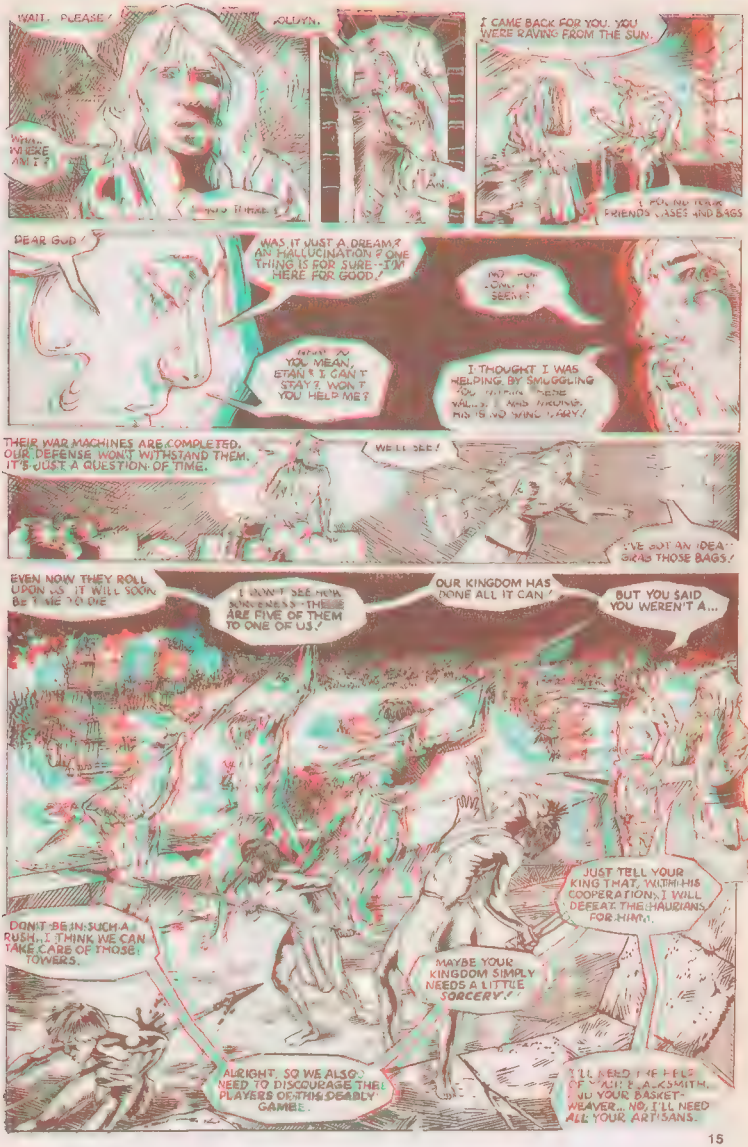
DIE !
DIE FACE !
SURROUNDED... AND SUDDENLY ALONE.
GOLDYN !
WHERE DID YOU GO ?
SO THIS IS YOUR STEALTH !

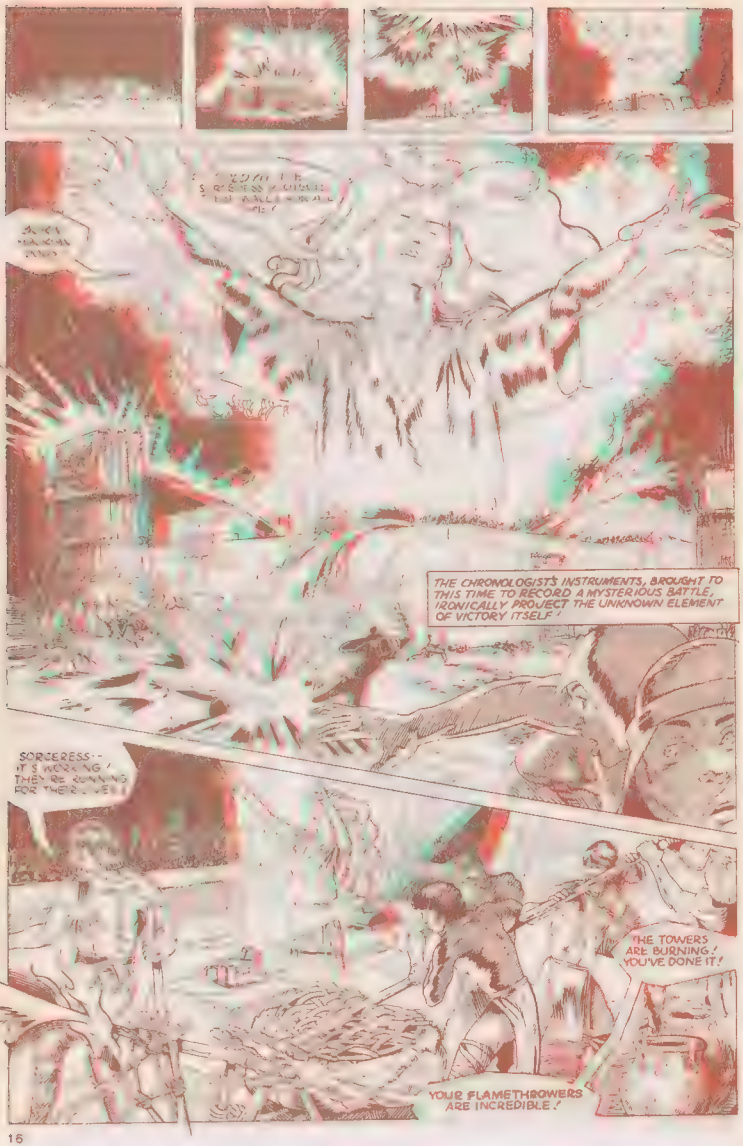
THE SCREAMS OF A NEW FRIEND CARRY WELL THROUGH THE DESERT AIR TO THE BURNING EARS OF
CHRONOLOGIST, A TIM
GoLdyn
ETAN, I KNOW
THEY'RE KILLING
YOU!
I JUST CAN'T SAVE YOU...
I'LL MISS MY ONLY CHANCE!
SOON THE CRIES END. THE SAVAGERY IS EXHAUSTIVE, EVEN TO THOSE WHO LUST AFTER THE GRISLY PLEASURE
BUT GOLDYN'S NEED TO HELP A FRIEND IS IRRESISTABLE. SO, GHOSTLIKE, SHE ENTERS THE SLEEPING ENCAMPMENT WITH THE ACQUIRED SKILL OF HER TIME: STEALTH!
ETAN, WAKE UP! I'LL CUT YOU DOWN, BUT I CAN'T LIFT YOU!
SORCERESS! HOW DID..? WHAT GOOD IS THIS MAGIC OF YOURS IF IT KILLS YOU?
BE QUIET! IF WE'RE CAREFUL, WE'LL BOTH GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE
A FIGURE STIRS, SITS UP AND SEES THE TWO...
HE RUBS HIS EYES AND SEES
...THEN NOTHING AT ALL!

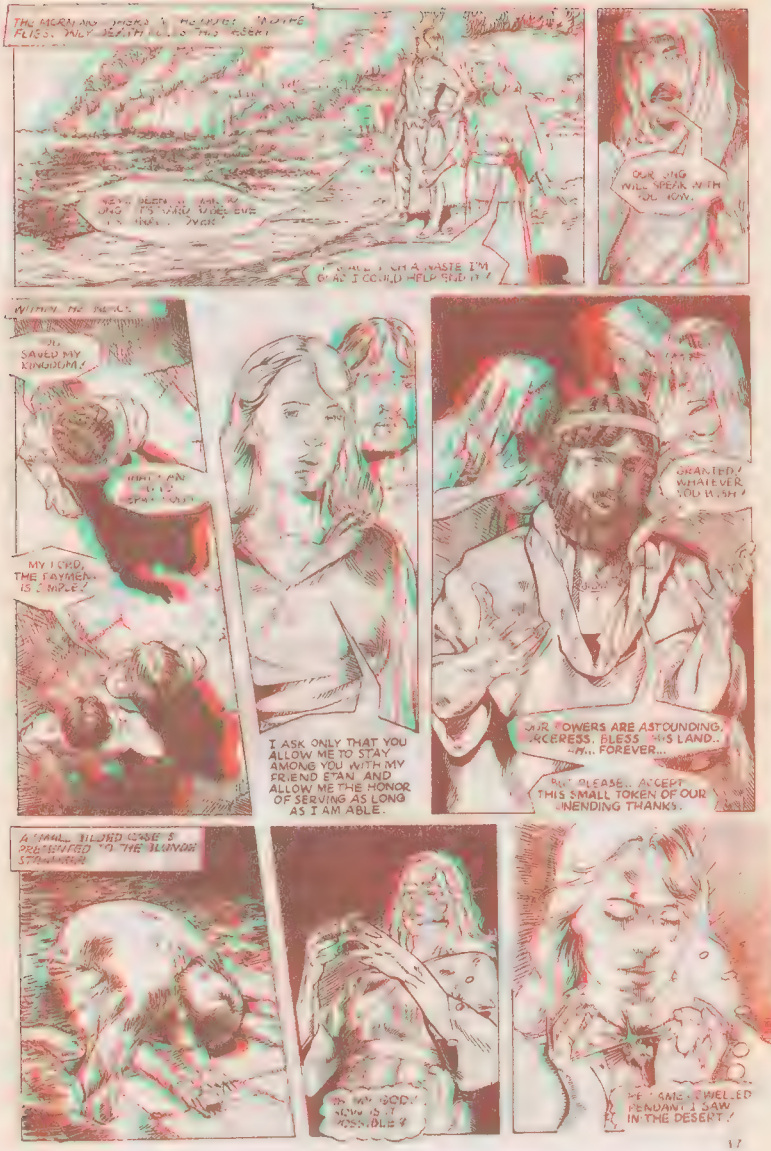
THEY SCURRY ALONG IN THE DARK UNTIL THEY FIND APPROPRIATE REFUGE
I HAVE TO
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY DID YOU...?
BUT YOU DON'T OWE ME
T'S SIMPLE...
DON'T SAY ANYTHING I'M ALREADY GONE
THOUGH I WILL PROBABLY MISS MY CHANCE TO RETURN TO MY OWN TIME, I HAD TO FREE YOU. / YOU SAVED MY LIFE-- AND STRANGLED THAT BASTARD WHO MURDERED MY FATHER... WE'RE EVEN NOW!
PLEASE GOD-- DON'T!
...A SECOND TOO LATE.
2500 YEARS TOO EARLY!

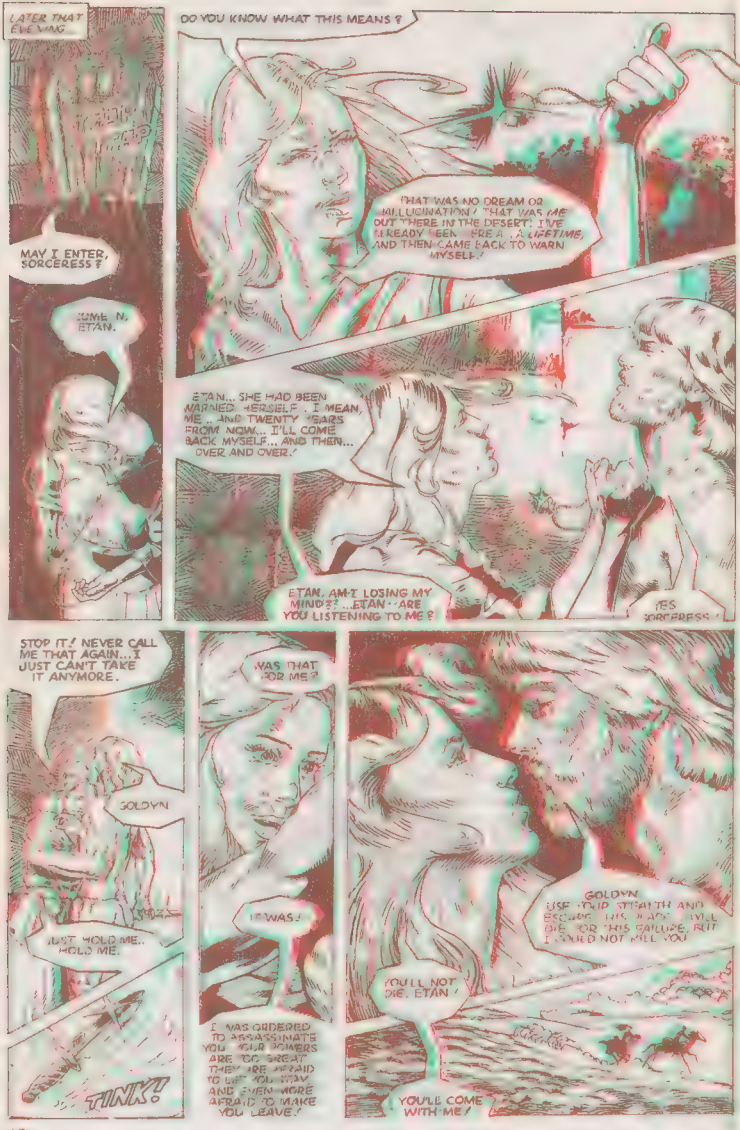

I'M SORRY. IT SEEMS YOU ARE HERE TO STAY.
COME WITH ME NOW. JOIN US AGAINST THE MAURIANS.
NO! DAMN YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE! I'M STAYING HERE. THEY'VE GOT TO REOPEN THE PORTAL!
LOOK, BEYOND THIS RISE, THE MAURIAN ARMY SURROUNDS OUR CITY--THEY ARE EVERYWHERE!
ALL RIGHT. YOU STAY HERE. BUT I'M NOT LEAVING!
THERE'S ALWAYS DANGER ON AN OBSERVATION MISSION LIKE THIS--BUT THE PORTAL DOESN'T THINK WE'RE ALL LOST. THEY'VE GOT TO RE-OPEN THE GATE!
WHEN THEY ARE FINISHED WITH YOU, THEY WILL SLIT YOUR THROAT!
MY WORLD IS WHERE I BELONG. YOU GO FIGHT FOR YOUR WORLD... I MUST FIGHT FOR MINE!
I'M STAYING!
THAT ARMY IS NOT THE ONLY THING THAT TORTURES. THE SUN WILL BAKE YOUR GOLDEN, HA RED HEAD.
YOU'VE HAD NO WATER SINCE YESTERNOON. YOU WILL QUICKLY LOSE YOUR SENSES.
GO!
HOURS PASS IN THE RELENTLESS SUN.
WHAT...?
THE SOUND OF SHIFTING SAND?
OH, THANK GOD! THE PORTAL!

DON'T THANK GOD, GOLDYN--YOU SHOULD THANK YOUR LUCKY STARS!
SUCH A PARADOX! I REMEMBER THIS DREAM I HAD SO MANY YEARS AGO-- THE SAME DREAM YOU ARE HAVING NOW.
I HAVE NOT COME TO RESCUE YOU AGAIN, HOWEVER... I WILL GIVE YOU LIFE.
BUT YOU'RE A MAN, RAVNLER--YOU HAVE TO TAKE ME BACK WITH YOU!
IF YOU KNOW I WON'T DIE THEN I CAN'T DIE! I'LL JUST SIT HERE UNTIL I'M RESCUED.
OH, YOU WILL NOT, MY LADY! I'VE COME TO TELL YOU WHAT SORT OF HORSE I AM LOOKING FOR!


WAIT, PLEASE!
...OLDYN.
WHAT WERE AM I?
I AM...
I CAME BACK FOR YOU. YOU WERE RAVING FROM THE SUN.
...FOR NO TOOLS, FRIENDS, CASES AND BAGS
DEAR GOD!
WAS IT JUST A DREAM? AN HALLUCINATION? ONE THING IS FOR SURE--I'M HERE FOR GOOD.
I DON'T KNOW IT SEEMED
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, STAN? I CAN'T STAY? WON'T YOU HELP ME?
I THOUGHT I WAS HELPING BY SMUGGLING YOU WITHIN THESE WALLS... AND AROUND. THIS IS NO TIME TO PARLEY!
THEIR WAR MACHINES ARE COMPLETED. OUR DEFENSE WON'T WITHSTAND THEM. IT'S JUST A QUESTION OF TIME.
WE'LL SEE!
I'VE GOT AN IDEA! GRAB THOSE BAGS!
EVEN NOW THEY ROLL UPON US. IT WILL SOON BE TIME TO DIE.
I DON'T SEE HOW SORCERESS--THERE ARE FIVE OF THEM TO ONE OF US!
OUR KINGDOM HAS DONE ALL IT CAN!
BUT YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T A...
JUST TELL YOUR KING THAT, WITH HIS COOPERATION, I WILL DEFEAT THE HAURIANS FOR HIM.
DON'T BE IN SUCH A RUSH... I THINK WE CAN TAKE CARE OF THOSE TOWERS.
MAYBE YOUR KINGDOM SIMPLY NEEDS A LITTLE SORCERY.
ALRIGHT. SO WE ALSO NEED TO DISCOURAGE THE PLAYERS OF THIS DEADLY GAME.
I'LL NEED FIVE FELT OF YOUR BLACKSMITH, TWO YOUR BASKET-WEAVER... NO, I'LL NEED ALL YOUR ARTISANS.


THE CHRONOLOGIST'S INSTRUMENTS, BROUGHT TO THIS TIME TO RECORD A MYSTERIOUS BATTLE, IRONICALLY PROJECT THE UNKNOWN ELEMENT OF VICTORY ITSELF!
SORCERESS--IT'S WORKING! THEY'RE RUNNING FOR THE RIVER!
THE TOWERS ARE BURNING! YOU'VE DONE IT!
YOUR FLAMETHROWERS ARE INCREDIBLE!


THE MORTAL WHO'S PRESENCE HAS GIVEN LIFE TO THIS DESERT
NEVER HAS IT RAINED SO HARD OVER THE SEA.
I SMELL FISH A WASTE I'M GLAD I COULD HELP FIND IT.
OUR KING WILL SPEAK WITH YOU NOW.
WITHIN THE HOUR.
HE SAVED MY KINGDOM!
WHAT CAN WE EVER GIVE HIM?
MY LORD, THE PAYMENT IS SIMPLE.
I ASK ONLY THAT YOU ALLOW ME TO STAY AMONG YOU WITH MY FRIEND ETAN AND ALLOW ME THE HONOR OF SERVING AS LONG AS I AM ABLE.
GRANTED. WHATEVER YOU WISH.
OUR TOWERS ARE ASTOUNDING, ACCERESS. BLESS THIS LAND.. -M... FOREVER...
BUT PLEASE, ACCEPT THIS SMALL TOKEN OF OUR UNENDING THANKS.
A SMALL, TILDED CASKET IS PRESENTED TO THE ELDERS STRANGER.
OH MY GOD! HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?
THE SAME JEWELLED PENDANT I SAW IN THE DESERT!


LATER THAT EVENING
MAY I ENTER, SORCERESS?
COME IN, ETAN.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS?
THAT WAS NO DREAM OR HALLUCINATION! THAT WAS ME OUT THERE IN THE DESERT. I'VE ALREADY SEEN PAST A LIFETIME, AND THEN CAME BACK TO WARN MYSELF!
ETAN... SHE HAD BEEN WARNED HERSELF. I MEAN, ME.. AND TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW... I'LL COME BACK MYSELF... AND THEN... OVER AND OVER.
ETAN, AM I LOSING MY MIND?...ETAN... ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
YES SORCERESS!
STOP IT! NEVER CALL ME THAT AGAIN... I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.
GOLDYN
JUST HOLD ME.. HOLD ME.
TINK!
WAS THAT FOR ME?
IT WAS!
I WAS ORDERED TO ASSASSINATE YOU. MY POWERS ARE SO GREAT THEY ARE AFRAID TO LET YOU LIVE AND EVEN MORE AFRAID TO MAKE YOU LEAVE!
GOLDYN USE YOUR STEALTH AND ESCAPE. HIS ARMY WILL DIE FOR THIS FAILURE, BUT I COULD NOT KILL YOU
YOU'LL NOT DIE, ETAN!
YOU'LL COME WITH ME!

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EDITED BY SHEL DORF

Foreword by

MILT CANIFF

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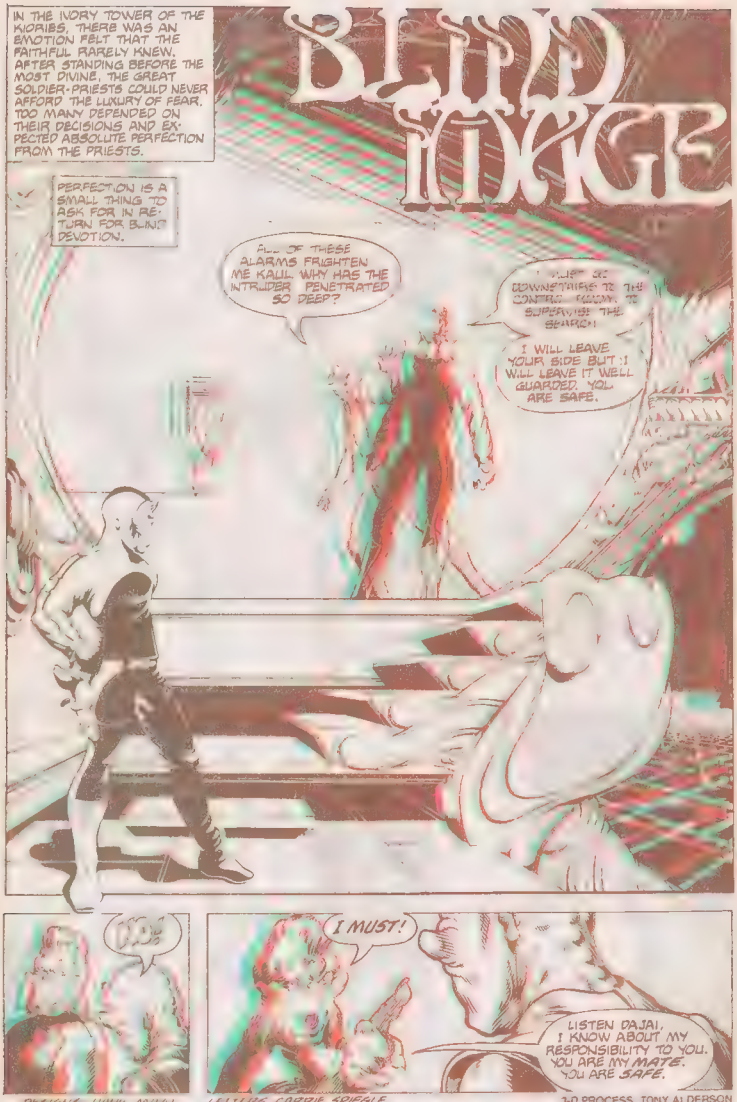
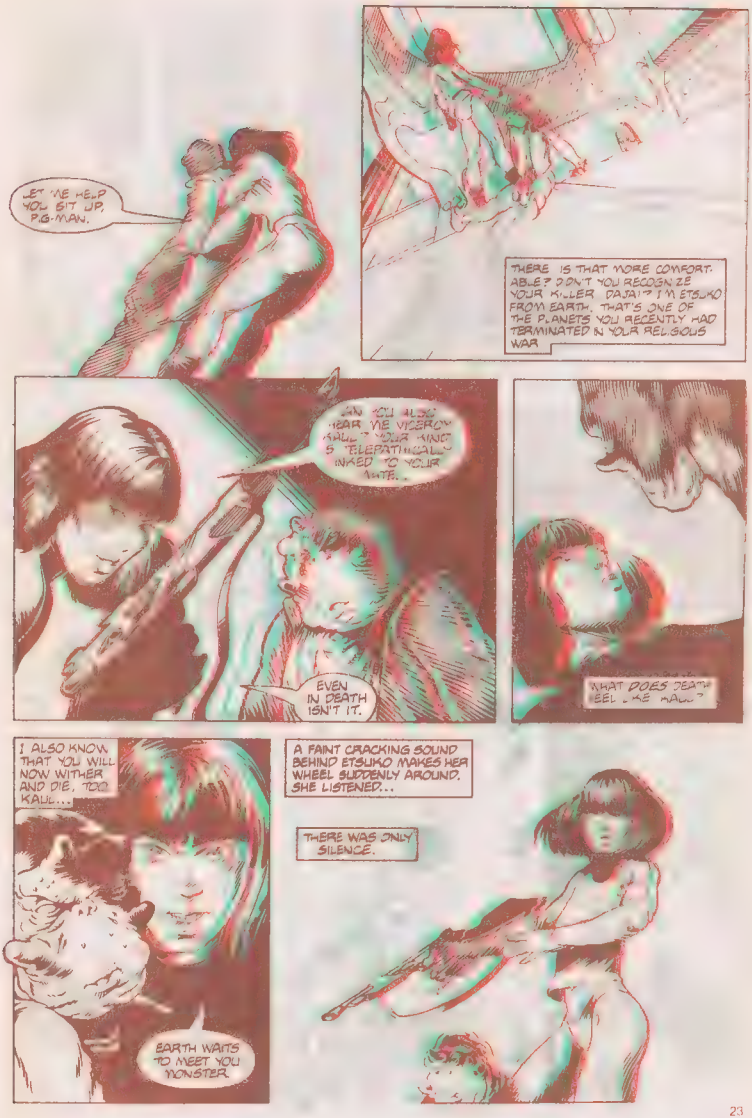

IN THE IVORY TOWER OF THE KIORIBS, THERE WAS AN EMOTION FELT THAT THE FAITHFUL RARELY KNEW. AFTER STANDING BEFORE THE MOST DIVINE, THE GREAT SOLDIER-PRIESTS COULD NEVER AFFORD THE LUXURY OF FEAR. TOO MANY DEPENDED ON THEIR DECISIONS AND EXPECTED ABSOLUTE PERFECTION FROM THE PRIESTS.
BLIND RAGE
PERFECTION IS A SMALL THING TO ASK FOR IN RETURN FOR BLIND DEVOTION.
ALL OF THESE ALARMS FRIGHTEN ME KAUL. WHY HAS THE INTRUDER PENETRATED SO DEEP?
I MUST GO DOWNSTAIRS TO THE CONTROL ROOM TO SUPERVISE THE SEARCH!
I WILL LEAVE YOUR SIDE BUT I WILL LEAVE IT WELL GUARDED. YOU ARE SAFE.
I MUST!
LISTEN DAJAI, I KNOW ABOUT MY RESPONSIBILITY TO YOU. YOU ARE MY MATE. YOU ARE SAFE.

DESIGNS: HANK MAYO
Written by HANK MAYO

LETTERS: CARRIE SPIEGLE

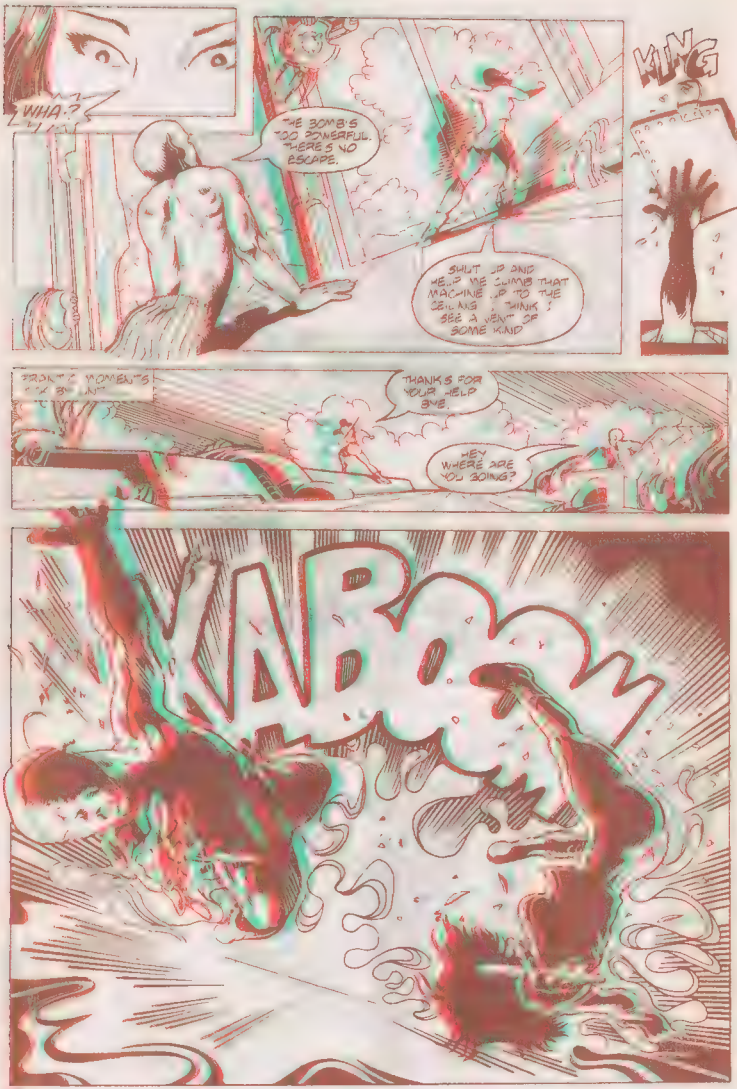
3-D PROCESS: TONY ALDERSON

SSSHNK
KABOOM
BLAM
WHO ARE YOU?
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO SEEM
..SO HUMAN
BLAM
WHAT ME TO BE DEATH

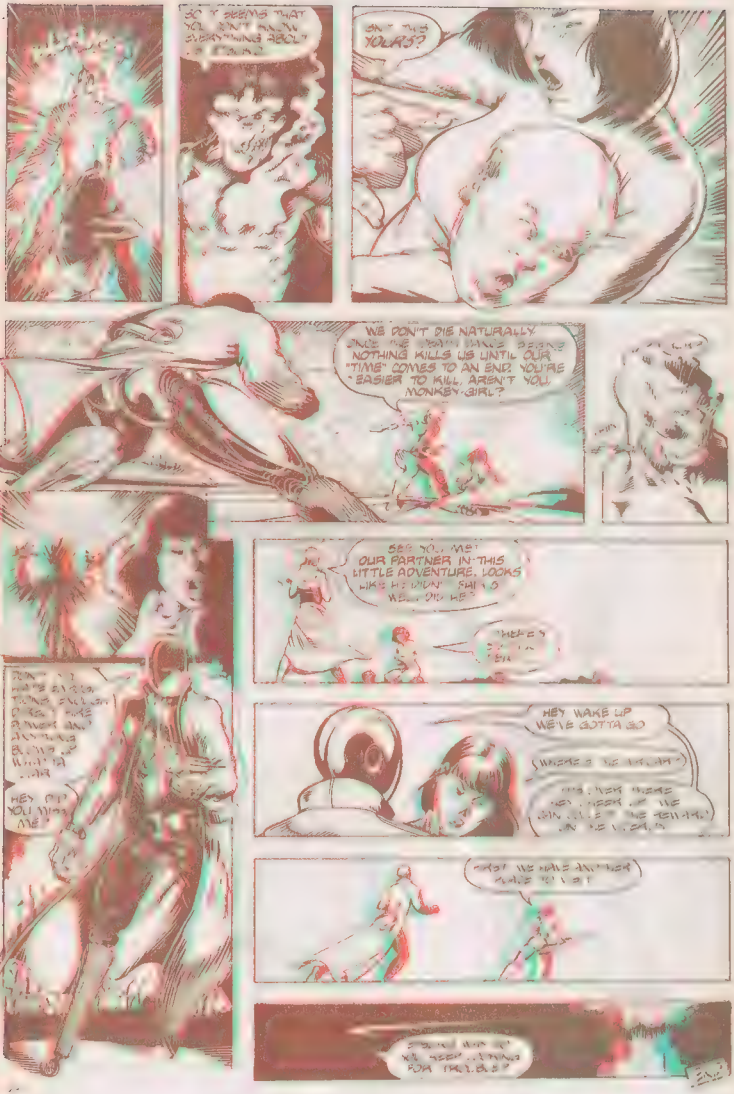

LET ME HELP YOU SIT UP, PIG-MAN.
THERE IS THAT MORE COMFORTABLE? DIDN'T YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR KILLER DAJA? I'M ETSUKO FROM EARTH. THAT'S ONE OF THE PLANETS YOU RECENTLY HAD TERMINATED IN YOUR RELIGOUS WAR
AND YOU ALSO FEAR ME VISEROY KALL - YOUR MIND IS TELEPATICALLY LINKED TO YOUR WIFE...
EVEN IN DEATH ISN'T IT.
WHAT DOES DEATH FEEL LIKE KALL?
I ALSO KNOW THAT YOU WILL NOW WITHER AND DIE, TOO KALL...
EARTH WAITS TO MEET YOU MONSTER.
A FAINT CRACKING SOUND BEHIND ETSUKO MAKES HER WHEEL SUDDENLY AROUND. SHE LISTENED...
THERE WAS ONLY SILENCE.

AL. ETSUKO DIDN'T HEAR NOW WAS THE BEATING OF HER HEART. SHE KNEW SHE WAS WAS THERE WAITING.
URK

ETSUKO COULDN'T HEAR THE GRATING OF METAL ON CONCRETE ON THE LEDGE, JUST OUTSIDE, THE ALIEN PLANET'S WIND SCREAMED PAST. THE WORD OF THE HEIGHT VIOLENCE THE SOUND OF A BOLT BEING D'AWA... BACK
YOU NOW HAVE TIME GUARD
"YOU KNEW I WAS COMING"
YOUR FRIENDS TOLD ME TO MEET YOU AT STREET LEVEL. YOU NEVER SHOWED SO I DECIDED TO DO IT ALONE.
THIS IS ALL TOO CONVENIENT
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO WANTS THE INFINITY TEAT. THE WORLD IS GOING TO BE "CLEANED" TOO WITH OUT THEIR RUIN TO CLEAN INTO THEIR ANTI-IL IS GOING TO CRUMBLE
...SO I PLANTED A BOMB...


WHA..?
THE BOMB'S TOO POWERFUL. THERE'S NO ESCAPE.
SHUT UP AND HELP ME CLIMB THAT MACHINE UP TO THE CEILING. I THINK I SEE A VENT OF SOME KIND
KING
FRONT 2 MOMENTS
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP BYE.
HEY WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
KABOOM

ARE YOU SURE?
YES. THAT GANGSTER WHO STOLE THE WORLD BUILDING BOSAN USED
I DID. IT'S JOB WELL ENOUGH. I LEFT THE AIRCAR SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.
WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEY FOLLOW DOWN UNDER US.
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE GLAD IT'S NOT WORSE THAN IT IS.
I HOPE THAT BLAST DIDN'T BLOW UP THE AIRCAR.
THE CAR ISN'T WHERE I LEFT IT.
HUH?
WELCOME TO HELL, FOOL.


SO IT SEEMS THAT YOU DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT ETERNALS.
OH... THIS YOURS?
WE DON'T DIE NATURALLY. ONCE THE TITAN GAVE DEATH NOTHING KILLS US UNTIL OUR "TIME" COMES TO AN END. YOU'RE EASIER TO KILL, AREN'T YOU, MONKEY-GIRL?
SEE YOU, ME? OUR PARTNER IN THIS LITTLE ADVENTURE, LOOKS LIKE HE DIDN'T SHOW UP. WELL, OH WELL.
THERE'S
HEY WAKE UP WE'VE GOTTA GO
WHERE'S THE KID?
HEY, DID YOU KILL ME?
WHAT WE HAVE ANOTHER MALE TO LOSE?
SHALL WE GO ALL SEEK LIVING FOR REAL?
END

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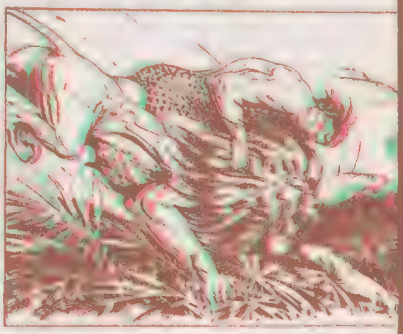

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